

Lifting the cross-ownership ban to allow further media consolidation will not serve the public interest. There will be less dissenting opinion available.

At a time of crisis, the dangers of such overwhelming concentration in media are more glaring than ever. The changes underway will make U.S. media even less diverse, more commercial, and less accountable to the public.

Besides the wholly predictable result of a single company controlling a town's TV stations, radio stations, cable company and only newspaper, elimination of this rule will essentially signal the absorption of the newspaper business into the television industry, with a negative impact on the quality of print journalism. Newspaper companies "see savings in news gathering by combining with TV stations as a big plus," (LA Times, 9/14/01). The newly merged megacompanies would provide communities with less news, not more.

Men have died fighting for freedom of expression, and our Constitution requires it.